

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06252 271440Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----122762 271440Z /53
O 271330Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3138
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INRO RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 3212

S E C R E T JIDDA 6252

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, EG, US
SUBJECT: E-1 PROJECT

REF: CAIRO 18949

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSOURI TOLD AMBASSADOR AND POL COUNSELOR ON AUGUST 27 THAT SAG HAD RECIEVED FROM EGYPT A COST ESTIMATE FOR THE EGYPTIAN F-5 PROGRAM AND A REQUEST THAT SAG AGREE TO PAY FOR THE PROGRAM. MANSOURI ASKED US TO OBTAIN FROM USG THE REAL PRICE OF THE PROGRAM.

2. MANSOURI ALSO ASKED HOW LONG THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE COULD BE STRETCHED OUT. HE STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES THAT IF THE U.S. REALLY WANTS TO HELP EGYPT, IT SHOULD STRETCH THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. HE TALKED IN TERMS OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

3. IN CLOSING, MANSOURI SAID THAT SAG HAD NOT YET AGREED TO PAY FOR EGYPTIAN PROGRAM AND WOULD MAKE ITS DECISION ONLY AFTER IT HAD GOTTEN ANSWERS FROM THE USG ON THE TWO QUESTIONS HE RAISED. ISSUE WOULD THEN BE DECIDED BY THE

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HIGHER COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDES PRINCE FAHD, PRINCE ABDULLAH, AND PRINCE SULTAN.

4. COMMENT: WE THINK THAT THREE CONSIDERATIONS HAVE PROMPTED THIS QUERY. FIRST, SAG IS EXPERIENCING BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. SECOND, THE PRICE OF THE EGYPTIAN PROGRAM IS HIGHER THAN THEY EXPECTED. THIRD, SAG THINKS EGYPT MAY

BE PADDING THE COST ESTIMATES. IN PROVIDING THE COST
OF THE PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF IT COULD BE
BROKEN DOWN INTO ITS MAJOR COMPONENTS, E.G. COST OF THE
BASIC AIRCRAFT, WEAPONS/ARMAMENTS, SPARE PARTS AND SUP-
PORT EQUIPMENT, CONTRACTOR SUPPORT, PILOT TRAINING, AND
GROUND CREW TRAINING.
WEST

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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